

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by offering local TV channels via satellite in every market in the United States. In addition, the merger will ensure that affordable high-speed Internet access service via satellite is available to Americans nationwide. My cable provider is the worst I have ever seen, with no plans for HD service. Also at one time there was only one satellite provider, but now the FCC has a problem with the merger to one. This seems kind of stupid. The members must have there pockets fed by the cable companies.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BARNES
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